

#### **FACT SHEET**

### **Running for Judgeships**

(All Judgeship Elections in North Carolina Are Non-Partisan) 2012 Election

- 1.) How do individuals get on the ballot for the non-partisan primary election? ( $\$163-321\ through\ \$163-335$ )
  - Candidates must file a notice of candidacy with the State Board of Elections and pay a filing fee of 1% of the annual salary of the office sought to the SBE. Notice of candidacy forms may be obtained at the SBE office prior to the date on which candidates may commence filing. Candidates who have properly filed their notice of candidacy and paid the filing fee will have their names certified by the chairman of the State Board of Elections to the Secretary of State three days after the expiration of the filing period.
  - All candidates must, at the time of filing a Notice of Candidacy, file a certificate signed by the chairman or the director of the county board of elections where they are registered to vote, that the person is a registered voter.
  - A candidate may not file for more than one office.
  - If only one or two primary candidates have filed at the time filing closes, those candidates will be certified as the nominees without the need for a primary.
  - The two highest vote-getters in the primaries or certified nominees will be listed on the General Election ballot as the two nominees for the office they filed for.
  - There are no unaffiliated judgeship candidates since these races are non-partisan. Also there are no write-in judgeship candidates.
- **2.)** When is the filing period?  $(\S 163-106(c))$ 
  - Begins 12:00 Noon **Monday, February 13, 2012.**
  - Ends 12:00 Noon Wednesday, February 29, 2012.
- 3.) When are the elections? ( $\S 163-1$ )
  - **Primary** The Tuesday after the first Monday in May preceding the general election. **Tuesday**, **May 8**, **2012**.

• General Election - The Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Tuesday, November 6, 2012.

## **4.)** What are the qualifications for North Carolina's Judgeships? (N.C. Const. Art. 6 Sec. 6)

- An individual must be at least 21 years of age, a qualified North Carolina voter, and duly authorized to practice law in the courts of North Carolina.
- Term
  - o Supreme Court Justice (8 years)
  - o Court of Appeals Judge (8 years)
  - Superior Court Judge (8 years) at the time of filing, candidate must be a resident of the judicial district (163-323(g))
  - o District Court Judge (4 years) must reside in the district for which he/she is elected (N.C. Const. Art. IV Sec. 10)

# **5.)** What are the Campaign Reporting filing requirements? (Article 22A of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes))

The Campaign Reporting Act requires financial disclosure of all political activities. Law provides that reports are due to be filed at the State Board of Elections Campaign Reporting Office for candidates in the 2010 Elections. The time of filing of these reports and the types of reports will vary by the type of campaign. Every candidate will be responsible for their compliance with campaign finance mandates. A Candidate Campaign Finance Manual is available on-line on the State BOE website.

It is required that all campaign committee treasurers receive training in handling campaign finance reports and law. This can be accomplished on-line or in-person at numerous training sessions being offered.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT: An organizational report must be filed with the State Board of Elections within ten days of becoming a candidate. Being a candidate includes taking positive action for the purpose of obtaining nomination or being elected, soliciting or receiving contributions, making expenditures to enhance a campaign, or filing a notice of candidacy, whichever comes first. The report can be found on-line and the Campaign Finance Division is available to help you with the filing.

#### 6.) What about public financing for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals races?

Candidates for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, desiring public financing of their campaign, need to review Article 22D of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes and contact the Campaign Finance Division of the State Board of Elections promptly after deciding to request such funding.